In the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph spanning lines 1-7 on page 7 with the following, which replaces 'an' with --a--:

mechanism, meaning that ~~an~~ a relationship is created between the endpoints of an SCTP session prior to data being transmitted, and this relationship is maintained until all data transmission has been successfully completed. Unlike TCP, SCTP provides a number of functions that are considered important for signaling transport (although TCP provides signaling transport functionality, it is relatively lacking in robustness and performance), and which at the same time can provide transport benefits to other applications requiring additional performance and reliability relative to TCP.

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Please replace the paragraph spanning lines 8-15 on page 8 with the following, which replaces 'FIG. 1' with --Figures 1A – 1B--:

~~FIG. 1 shows~~ Figures 1A – 1B show the start of data transmission with congestion control uner SCTP. This may be, for example, upon establishment of a new connection in a network, after a sufficiently long idle period, after traffic reduction, or the like. First, in 210, the system decides whether the data transmission is being done before first data transmission or after a long idle period, or upon detection of packet losses or after a retransmission timeout. If the former, the congestion window size c_{wnd} is set to not more than twice the maximum transmission unit (MTU) size in 215. If the latter, in 217 the congestion window size is set to not more than the MTU size.

Please replace the paragraph spanning lines 19-22 on page 10 through lines 2 on page 11 with the following, which deletes an 'at;:

For example, if all sources control ~~at~~ the rate at which they send traffic into the network, the network should be able to avoid congestion unless there is some significant event such as loss of a node or link. In contrast, the open Internet includes a variable number of traffic sources which attempt to maximize their use of available bandwidth by increasing their rate of sending until they detect congestion, then backing off.